

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 15, 21 and 26 and ADD new claims 32-34 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A laminated composite ~~for use with a polarizing member~~, comprising:
an optical layer having a light reflectivity; and
a latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the latent image¹¹²
formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on one of major
surfaces of the optical layer,

wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in
an orientation state which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally
arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image
formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in a non-orientation state which an
orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an
orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and

wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion
constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the
composite and recognizable by a visual observation of the composite through a polarizing
member.

2. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer
material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.

3. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said optical layer is a specular
reflection layer.

4. (original) The composite according to claim 3, further comprising an OVD layer either on
the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image
formation layer.

5. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

6. (currently amended) The composite according to claim 1, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light ~~transmissibility~~ transmissivity and protects the latent image, on the latent image formation layer.

7. (original) The composite according to claim 6, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

8. (original) The composite according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

9. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising:
a light reflective substrate with a light reflective surface; and
a latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the light reflective surface,
wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in ~~an orientation state~~ which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in ~~a non-orientation state~~ which an orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and
wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the medium and recognizable by a visual observation of the medium through ~~the~~ a polarizing member.

10. (original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.

11. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said light reflective substrate comprises a laminated structure of an information-recorded substrate and an optical layer facing the latent image formation layer and having a light reflectivity.

12. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said optical layer is a specular reflection layer.

13. (original) The medium according to claim 12, further comprising an OVD layer either on the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image formation layer.

14. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

15. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 9, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light ~~transmissibility~~ transmissivity and protects the latent image formation layer, on the latent image formation layer.

16. (original) The medium according to claim 15, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

17. (original) The medium according to claim 11, wherein said light reflective substrate further comprises a base layer between the information-recorded substrate and the optical layer.

18. (original) The medium according to claim 17, wherein said base layer is an adhesive layer.

19. (original) The medium according to claim 17, further comprising a sticky layer between said information-recorded substrate and said base layer.

20. (original) The medium according to claim 9, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

21. (currently amended) A member of imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic comprising:
a base layer;

an optical layer provided on one of major surfaces of the base layer and having a light reflectivity; and

a latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the optical layer,

wherein said latent image formation layer comprises at least one oriented portion in an ~~orientation state~~ which chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the latent image formation layer, and at least one non-oriented portion in a ~~non-orientation state~~ which an orientation degree of the chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material is lower than an orientation degree of the chains in the oriented portion, and

wherein said at least one oriented portion and said at least one non-oriented portion constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the member of imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic and recognizable by a visual observation of the member of imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic through ~~the~~ a polarizing member.

22. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said liquid crystalline polymer material is a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer material.

23. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said optical layer is a specular reflection layer.

24. (original) The member according to claim 23, further comprising an OVD layer either on the latent image formation layer or between the specular reflection layer and the latent image formation layer.

25. (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said optical layer is an OVD layer.

26. (currently amended) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light ~~transmissibility~~ transmissivity and protects the latent image formation layer, on the latent image formation layer.

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~~26.~~^{27.} (currently amended) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a protection layer, which has a light transmissivity and protects the latent image formation layer, on the latent image formation layer.

~~27.~~^{28.} (original) The member according to claim 26, wherein said protection layer has a light scattering property.

~~28.~~^{29.} (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said base layer is an adhesive layer.

~~29.~~^{30.} (original) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a sticky layer on said base layer.

~~30.~~^{31.} (original) The member according to claim 21, further comprising a release layer releasably provided on the base layer.

~~31.~~^{32.} (original) The member according to claim 21, wherein said polarizing member is a circularly polarizing member.

~~32.~~^{33.} (new) A laminated composite comprising:
an optical layer having a light reflectivity; and
a patterned latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the patterned latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on one of major surfaces of the optical layer,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the composite and recognizable by a visual observation of the

composite through a polarizing member.

34.

~~33.~~ (new) An information recording medium comprising:

a light reflective substrate with a light reflective surface; and

a patterned latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the patterned latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the light reflective surface,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the medium and recognizable by a visual observation of the medium through a polarizing member.

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~~34.~~ (new) A member of imparting a forgery-preventing characteristic comprising:

a base layer;

an optical layer provided on one of major surfaces of the base layer and having a light reflectivity; and

a patterned latent image formation layer with no polarizing member thereon, the latent image formation layer containing a liquid crystalline polymer material and provided on the optical layer,

wherein chains of the liquid crystalline polymer material are orientationally arranged in a single direction substantially parallel to a major surface of the patterned latent image formation layer, and

wherein said patterned latent image formation layer and an opening portion of the patterned latent image formation layer constitute a latent image which is unrecognizable by a direct visual observation of the member of the imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic and recognizable by a visual observation of the member of imparting the forgery-preventing characteristic through a polarizing member.